

A photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, a dirt road with tire tracks leads towards a line of trees. The trees are mostly bare, suggesting winter. The sky is a clear, pale blue. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the title and date.

The Villager

February 2025

Sherbornes and Pamber



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Editor's Note

Happy New Year to our Villagers, nearby and far away. I am standing in for Julie for this edition and the next. I hope you notice nothing out of the ordinary, ie. I have made no mistakes! Apologies if you find one! On the inside of the back page are listed all the clubs, organisations and groups within our villages so no excuse for boredom or loneliness as there are plenty to choose from to join in. There also appears to be the re-birth of the Village Fete on 21st June which will need plenty of helpers – don't be shy - volunteer.

Lindsay

Maureen Pettifer



Photo: Basingstoke Gazette

Richard and Deborah wish to thank most sincerely all those friends within the village and beyond who helped and supported them through the recent death and funeral of their beloved Maureen. After 26 years in the village these friends are legion and we cannot reach each and every one of you other than through the columns of the Villager. Maureen loved Sherborne St John and all those who became her friends over this long time. That she was loved in return was evident from the many of you who stepped forward to help us to say our "goodbyes" to her. From the Church community, led by Stewart Deering (though we were not and never had been church goers), to those who manage the Village Hall and those who have no allegiance in this other than to her and her memory. Thank you.

Cover Photo: A Favourite Walk, Kiln Farm Fields by Lindsay Berry

Whilst we are happy to publish items and opinions in this magazine it should be noted that the views expressed by the contributors are not necessarily endorsed by the Editorial team.

Readers should also make their own enquiries about, and assessment of, claims and services made by advertisers in this magazine.

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Hopes and Fears

You might remember in the last edition of the Villager there appeared a short article explaining the slightly mysterious looking white-shrouded structure in St Andrew's Churchyard. The new hedge surrounding the Garden of Remembrance has been hardening up over the last few months - and so far the deer are staying away!

The installation of this hedge was a wonderful example of what can be done when the church and wider community work together. As a church we were very grateful to our local benefactor, as well as all those who spent a precious Saturday morning digging, planting and fleecing.

We are very fortunate in our parish to have grounds at St Andrew's SSJ, All Saints' Monk Sherborne and Pamber Priory where anyone who lives in the parish can be laid to rest when they die, and where loved ones can visit.

While the churchyard that immediately surrounds St Andrew's is maintained by the local council (as it is closed), the Garden of Remembrance, SSJ Cemetery and the Churchyards at All Saints' and Pamber Priory come under the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council.

This responsibility includes grass-cutting (currently out-sourced to a contractor), tree, shrub and hedge maintenance, and keeping the overall space tidy so that families can easily visit

and care for their own plots. A Working Party of volunteers is organised several times of year to help with this and a number from the church community undertake work in between.

The PCC would very much welcome offers of help from anyone in the wider community who would like to get involved in helping look after these valuable parish assets. Our next Working Party will be early in the Spring, we hope to confirm and share the date soon.

We would also welcome anyone who might be interested in helping us to develop accurate maps of the churchyards. We receive regular enquiries from visitors wishing to locate past relatives and at present there is a very limited regularised plan of burial locations. How much better it would be if a full survey was able to be completed with the findings put online.

If you would like more information about how you can get involved please contact: admin@sherborneswithpamber.org

Keith Bunker & Stewart Deering

Rev. Stewart Deering
stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org
07359 717577

Roman Catholic Services (Tel: 819772)

Sunday Mass will be celebrated at the Church of St Bede, Popley at the following times: 9.00am 11.00am 6.30pm

Weekday Mass

Tuesday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *	Friday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *
Wednesday	HG Church, Basingstoke	9.30am *	Saturday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *
Thursday	Church of St Bede, Popley	9.30am *	* Time & Venue could vary		



February

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St Andrew's **Sherborne St John** | All Saints' **Monk Sherborne** | **Pamber** Priory

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For regular updates please scan the QR code:



Sat 1st	8.30am Morning Prayer in The Parish Room
Sun 2nd	10.30am Holy Communion with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's
Mon 3rd	12pm Retired Men's Bible Study at 22 Tyfield SSJ
Wed 5th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at St Andrew's SSJ
Sun 9th	9.30am Morning Worship at All Saints' Monk Sherborne 10.30am Morning Worship with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's SSJ
Wed 12th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group at SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at All Saints' Monk Sherborne
Sun 16th	10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew's
Sun 23rd	9.30am Holy Communion at Pamber Priory 10.30am All Age Worship at St Andrew's
Tues 25th	7.30pm Equip Event at St Andrew's
Wed 26th	10-11.30am Little Acorns Baby & Toddler Group - SSJ Village Hall 12-12.30pm Midday Prayer at Pamber Priory
Sat 1st March	8.30am Morning Prayer in The Parish Room
Sun 2nd March	10.30am Holy Communion with groups for 0-11s at St Andrew's

Please note the change to the service times at All Saints' and Pamber Priory which will now start at 9.30am.

The Services at St Andrew's are live streamed on our YouTube channel and are available to watch afterwards. Search Parish of the Sherbornes with Pamber on Youtube or use the link on our website under the Resources Menu.

Children of all ages are very welcome in our services. At St Andrew's we have groups for 0-14s during term time.

Claiming Dates

February 2025

1	Sherfield on Loddon Village Barn Dance, Sherfield on Loddon VHall. Ticket entry only	7.30 pm – 11.30pm
3	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
4	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, AGM	2.00pm
7	Sherborne St John Social Club, SSJ School Charity Night	7.30pm
8	Sherborne St John Social Club, Jake & Jay House of Games Night, Ticket only	7.30pm
13-15	Basingstoke Gang Show, Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke, Tickets: www.anvilarts.org.uk	
17	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
17-22	Basingstoke Gang Show, Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke, Tickets: www.anvilarts.org.uk	
22	Sherborne St John Social Club, Ben & Bryony Music Quiz	7.30 pm

March 2025

1	John Kirkpatrick presents A Victorian Farmers Year, Sherfield on Loddon VHall. Ticket entry only	7.30 pm – 11.30pm
1	Sherborne St John Social Club, Reggae & UB40 Tribute, Ticket Entry Only	7.30
1	Mayor's Spring Charity Concert, The Anvil, £20 www.anvilarts.org.uk	
3	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
4	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Men I Have Married	2.00pm
8	Lou Taylors Soul Night, Royal British Legion, Old Basing £12.50 Tkts: www.basingstokelions.org.uk	7.30pm
17	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
22	Sherborne St John Social Club, Danny Connors Karaoke	7.30pm
26	Sherborne St John Parish Council Meeting, Chute Pavilion	7.15pm

April 2025

1	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, The Good, The Bad, and The Downright Funny	2.00pm
3 - 5	"The Vicar of Dibley" @ Central Studios. B/s Tkts: https://privatetheatricals.ticket-office.co.uk	7.30 pm
7	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
21	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

May 2025

5	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
6	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, Christabel Pankhurst	2.00pm
11	Basingstoke Festival of Transport, B/S & Deane Rotary, B/S Memorial Park	
19	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

June 2025

2	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
3	Women's Fellowship, SSJ Village Hall, A Titanic Conspiracy	2.00pm
14	Sherborne St John Primary School Fayre, School Playground	tbh
21	Sherborne St John Village Fête, The Village Green, Sherborne St John	1.00pm – 4.00pm
16	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00
30	Retirement Coffee Morning, Sherborne St John Village Hall	10.00am – 12.00

Notify Claiming Dates to Lindsay Berry on lindsayberry0@gmail.com or message on 07775 800955

The Priory Primary School



Christmas community performances



Christmas was a real community event at The Priory. Our musical performances were enjoyed by all parents and involved every single child singing, the school choir and backing music provided by our talented staff!

A magical treat also happened when Santa arrived in a decorated tractor complete with The Grinch!



We have spaces in some of our classes at the moment.

If you'd like to have a look around the school to meet our amazing pupils and staff, please give us a call on 01256 850062 or email office@priory.hants.sch.uk

Sherborne St John Primary School



In any school, the spring term is a busy but focussed one. The excitement, the glitter, the different events, the craziness of Christmas are all over for another year, and January brings a fresh new start. For us at Sherborne St John Primary School, that means getting busy learning! When I invited the 'Stars of the Term' from the Autumn term from each class to a special headteacher's tea party back in the first week of January, the children filled me in on their hot new topics, so let me share it with you all too.

Class 1 (YR/1) and Class 2 (Y1/2) are both loving the same topic – A Royal Invitation, all about Kings and Queens, including learning about our new King.

One child very excitedly explained to me at the start of term that the King has kindly invited them all to visit his castle in Windsor – what a wonderful trip, that I know the children are all looking forward to! I was asked if I wanted to be called 'His Majesty' by one child... I declined for now, but you never know!

Class 3 have been thoroughly enjoying their topic on London, called 'Visits, Visions and Visitors'. Their trip is just as exciting – a trip to London! The children have learnt about different landmarks in London, looked at maps and also thought about the history of the land-use of London and how the Thames was used for trade. A trip to London to drive past major sites including Buckingham Palace, Horse Guards Parade, Downing Street and the Houses of Parliament on the coach, as well as a chance to visit the Tower of London, will cement their enjoyment of learning about our capital city.

Finally, Class 4 have loved their topic on 'Rainforests' – although I think they were a little sad that their teachers

aren't going to take them on a plane to visit a real rainforest! However, they have enjoyed learning about what a rainforest is, what is found within them, where they are in the world and how the animals, plants and trees are all part of the complex biodiversity of a rainforest, as well as considering the effects of deforestation and thinking about those that make their homes in the rainforest. How fascinating!

Of course, our topic work is not all that has happened in the last month or so at Sherborne St John Primary School. Year R went on a Winter Walk to see the changes brought on by the weather, we've taken part in Tag Rugby and Sports Hall Athletics competitions, our Y5 children have been having squash lessons in Basingstoke, and Years 5 and 6 have been to QMC for Science activities. Phew! We will be ready to enjoy a break over February half term – and then get busy learning all over again.

Sherbert

SSJ School Villager Correspondent

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Sherborne St John Parish Council

By the time you read this Christmas and the New Year will be a distant memory, however your parish councillors all hope you had a happy and healthy time, if you were working during the festive period that you and yours managed to enjoy most of it.

We have been told that the pathway on the A340 near Armstrong's is un-walkable. We will report this to the relevant folk, if you notice any other paths which cannot be used due to overgrowth please let the clerk know. Meanwhile we have the services of a Footpath Warden from BDBC which we are paying for so if you know of any issues with the official footpaths please let the clerk know and she will forward it on. The Lengthsmen continue to be active around the village – if you have a suggested task please let the Clerk or Jane know.

The Parish Council has also been told there has been another accident with a vehicle turning right at one of the two quite dangerous right turns into the Village. From the Basingstoke direction these junctions are at Elm Bottom into Elm Road and at Dixon corner into Cranes Road. If you see/hear of an accident at either of these junctions please encourage the parties concerned to report it to the police so any recorded evidence can be used to substantiate our endeavour with Hampshire Highways to implement road layout improvement.

Our financial situation is healthy although like everyone else our costs are also increasing. We are assessing the projects for the next financial year. We will need to replace the heating in the Pavilion as the current system is obsolescent and the lighting in the car park also needs improvement. By the



time this magazine arrives we will have completed the refurbishment works in the Pavilion where we have replaced the showers, toilets and the external drain to bring it up to modern standards.

You may be aware that we had some "illegal visitors" again on the 19th December. This time the Parish Council, rather than the very protracted time getting a court injunction, decided to contact a bailiff recommended by Mortimer PC. The Bailiff served notice on them within 48 hours and they left during the early hours of the 21st December.

We have been approached to join a scheme in conjunction with a solar farm application. The Parish Council will organise a separate public meeting in the coming months so you can hear their point of view and express yours. You may have heard that the government is threatening devolution and unitary authorities; we will have to wait and see how this may affect us all along with

Basingstoke and Deane. Hampshire CC is willing to discuss it apparently. Hopefully there will be plenty of opportunities for us to voice our opinion via consultation.

Please use the Village Shop when you can – use it or lose it...

Driving around the village and the immediate area the roads continue to be in a very poor condition with potholes having not been repaired properly. With the recent very cold weather they have either increased in number or got worse. Please continue to report them to BDBC.

*A reminder that the Parish Council no longer meets every month but bi-monthly at the Chute. We have put processes in place to make decisions that cannot wait in the intervening period so there will be no delays. You will find the dates of the meetings advertised on the notice boards around the village and our website.

Linda Agnew
Vice Chair


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Women’s Fellowship

The year got off to a good start with a talk from Women’s Fellowship member Lynne Kerr, titled ‘Men I Have Married’ - Lynne pointed out that these were strictly in her capacity as a Deputy Superintendent Registrar.

Having pursued a number of careers over the years, she found herself happily, to begin with, enjoying a life of relative domestic leisure in her converted barn in Norfolk, but became bored at home so set about seeking employment. Looking through the Houses & Jobs section of her local newspaper she spotted an advertisement for a Deputy Superintendent Registrar not too far away. She applied for the post and was successful, possibly helped by her secretarial skills and a teaching Diploma in Adult Education.

There was no formal training, only general guidelines. Lynne learned that the Births and Deaths were a different department to Marriages. She was required to work three days a week and travel to different locations in Norfolk, not too far away. The job ‘started small’ but quickly grew so that she would fill in for colleagues when they were absent.

The second part of the talk was her anecdotes, some very amusing, others not quite so. A full day of wedding ceremonies would be four, but two was the

preferred number. Lynne found herself thinking thoughts such as ‘this union won’t last till the end of the week’ and ‘how many tattoos does a bride need?’ to other ceremonies being wonderful and poignant experiences for the couples and their families.

One anecdote had everyone laughing, though it was not funny, when Lynne, at the appropriate time in the proceedings, said the ‘Is there any just cause.’ when a woman in the room rose to her feet and shouted ‘I object. He is still married to my cousin. It turned out that the groom was a serial philanderer and had proposed to another on the morning of this wedding. Needless to say, the ceremony did not continue, and did not materialise.

Another ceremony which Lynne remembers fondly was a couple, both American, based at the American Airbase local to Kings Lynn - the groom was called very suddenly to go to Afghanistan. None of the required preparations had been carried out, but this was all done with lightning speed. They were married two days later, with just two witnesses, and the groom went off to Afghanistan, knowing that if anything should happen to him, his new wife would be financially looked after.

Another, amusing ceremony was a heavily pregnant bride who insisted her aged Father well into his late 90’s, walk

down the ‘aisle’ with her. When she and the groom walked back following the wedding, Lynne observed that very little underwear was being worn, not helped by the lack of petticoat to hide her near nudity. A similar incident happened when the bride was in a similar state of undress but was mercifully carrying a beautiful trailing bouquet, hiding her modesty - at the front at least.

Another story was a couple in their 50’s who insisted their dog was present at the ceremony, a practice not allowed, but the powers that be relented. The groom was Spanish and spoke no English, so a translator had to be found, just in case of any legal discrepancies. None was needed, however, as the translation was transcribed ‘I want to do to you what honey bees do to almond blossom in the Spring’ which left everyone intrigued.

Lynne was thanked by Rose Cooper. The February meeting is the AGM - a good time to come along and see if you would like to join us.

Charity Plant Stall in Monk Sherborne



2024 was a disappointing gardening year for us. We lost many of our dahlias and perennials during the winter.

However with your help we still managed to raise £4,400 for various charities, these include, Macmillan Cancer Support, St Michael’s Hospice, Cancer Research, RNLI, Basingstoke Hospital Fund, and the Poppy Appeal.

Thank you everyone who supported us by buying flowers, plants and vegetables and to those who left plants for us to sell.

We will be back again in March with our usual daffodils, pots of spring bulbs and

spring bedding plants at very competitive prices.

If you haven’t visited us before you will find us in the drive of Lynten House, Monk Sherborne, not far from the post box. Please come along and support these very worthwhile charities.

Happy gardening
Chris & Bea Moore

Beau’s Blog

I wish a Happy New Year to you all with plenty of food and a lot of walks.

Christmas was a very happy family affair here and I am pleased to say I had a little playmate to share the day with. Cookie the Border terrier came over. We have a love/hate relationship. I love her and she hates me but I am immune as I don’t believe anyone can hate me as I am so lovable. Here I am just trying to rip the wrapping from my Christmas present which turned out to be a tasty chew in the shape of a bone. I said my thankyou’s in the time honoured way with a big lick and a wagging tail and an immediate devouring of my delicious gift before Cookie found it. In roughly 10 seconds I had scarfed the lot and it was delicious. I began rummaging through the myriad wrappings scattered over the entire floor in case Cookie had been given one which she may have mislaid.... Nothing doing, apparently she had eaten hers too but happily there seemed to be some turkey left which was

donated to my dish and also tasted as good as the gift.

The Boss received some soft suede slippers trimmed inside with sheep skin which I quite envied but after a good perusal I decided my sleek fur paws with their hardy pads and sophisticated black nails were far superior, especially as I can keep them on all the time – no need for this constant change of footwear.

I sometimes hear the Mrs exclaiming about footwear the Boss has on indoors – especially if he has just come in from the garden without changing them! Luckily my paws seem to be self-cleaning as I never leave dirty footprints on the floor – at least I don’t think so.....

It must be such a drag having to have so many different pairs of footwear and having to make decisions all the time on which pair to put on. I often hear the Boss asking the Mrs if she needs to have quite so many to choose from,



but she says it is quite necessary – as necessary as it is for him to have four pairs of wellington boots..... I gaze into his eyes, telepathically telling him to discontinue that conversation! At least they only have two feet to worry about – I count my lucky stars that I don’t need any at all - can you imagine four of everything.

<http://beauregardsdogblog.blogspot.com>

News from Pamber and Little London

Dear Reader,
Rather late in the day, I know, but I hope you all had a happy and joyful Christmas and that 2025 will bring good health and, more unlikely I fear, a slowing-down of conflict in the world.



I was unable to be at the St Stephen’s Celebration, but it sounds as though it was, as ever, a real treat. I have cut out the middle (wo)man and am handing over to David, the excellent Master of Ceremonies, to tell you what you missed.

“Another capacity gathering in St Stephens VH on Sunday for the carol singing and tree lighting ceremony. Before the ceremonial lighting, those attending were treated to a variety of entertainment. This year the readers were Felix Lissman, Peter Smith and Hattie Bloor (who also gave a

piano solo). Paul James and daughter Lucy provided carols of old. Jean Filkin organised the splendid string accompaniment for our carols this year with herself on violin no. I, along with Helen on violin II, and Rebecca on Cello. Her grand-daughters Isla and Esme provided a delightful and confident duet with piano and voice.

Gary and Carol were in charge of the tree lighting, also coordinating the splendid “catering team” who provided us with the most delicious selection of mince pies, shortbread biscuits and other fine fayre along with an eclectic mix of wines - mulled, white, red and pink - for all tastes.

With glasses charged we all ventured out of the VH to witness the fantastic parade of tractors, lit like a mobile Blackpool display - all 76 of them as they moved through the villages. It brought a very special gathering to a delightful close. A very big “thank you” to all the performers, those who helped, and those who came and added their melodious voices to the carol singing.

All providing a very special atmosphere to the start of Christmas.”



No pictures I’m afraid, but some rather nice ones of Partying in Pamber. Some new residents to New Road took the wonderful step of inviting many neighbours whom they have got to know to a lovely house-warming party. What an excellent addition Ali and Ted are to our community. And thank you, both for the party!

That’s me done for this issue. Stay safe and please remember to send me anything of interest – major or minor! - to other members of the community.

B 🐝 bdownes.villager@gmail.com

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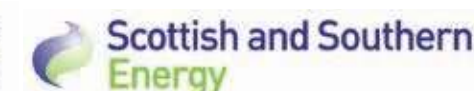
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Re-creating a Water Meadow

‘Water, water everywhere’ complained the Ancient Mariner in Coleridge’s ‘Rime of the Ancient Mariner’.

Well, there has certainly been a lot of water recently. Sherborne (which means something like ‘bright water’ in Anglo Saxon) has been awash. Days of rain have left our fields flooded and our streams in spate.

Not that this rain would have overly worried our ancestors who made use of the abundant water of Sherborne St. John to create a system of water meadows. Looking at local topography and also 19th-century Ordinance Survey maps we can see how fields were flooded for early spring growth (water raises the temperature of surrounding land giving perfect conditions for grass).

The maps below show evidence for water meadows in the valley north of Manor Farm House along the Wey Brook (running towards the millpond).

So what is a ‘water meadow’? Well, it involved intervention – in a so-called ‘simple’ water meadow a head drain takes water off the main stream upstream, taking it along and above the main stream. From the head drain ‘hatches’ are cut that let the water flow back to the main stream across the meadow, thus making a water meadow.

What was good for grass was good for cattle and sheep, who must have enjoyed fresh spring grass after months of winter hay in barns. The 18th-century shed opposite Manor Farm House is a rare example of sheep shed. One can imagine lambs gambling down the hill to graze on bright spring grass in the fields.

(Long-standing villagers might remember that until as late as the 1980s, there existed to the north of Manor Farm a ditch that took water from the fishpond (the village pond) alongside

the old piggeries to flood the field adjacent to the sheep shed, so this part of Manor Farm was also likely to have once been given over to sheep.)

Recently, we have been working to restore a part of the old water meadows, not for lambs, but to increase the floral biodiversity of the rewilded Manor Farm fields. So-called ‘fenland’ plants cannot live without flood water – return the water and back will come these rare plants.

The photo below shows that our efforts have been rewarded in ways that might alarm even an Ancient Mariner!

Adam Rattray



Enlargement of the fenland areas to the south of the Wey Brook restores fenland within an area once managed as water meadow

1. The Wey Brook



2. The Head Drains



3. The Hatches



4. The Water Meadow



News from the Hospital

How fortunate we are locally to have a hospital where productivity is continuing to improve. This contrasts with the public sector as a whole, where productivity is still 8.5% below pre-pandemic levels. It is also worth mentioning that not all hospital trusts are achieving improvements.

It is sad that this government’s latest re-set for the NHS, with its list of ‘new’ improvements (for example, bringing care into the community, and use of more digital), is portrayed as being a totally new initiative. In fact, this has been the plan for a long time, as those who studied the documents relating to the plans for the new hospital based on these changes will also be aware, so nothing new here!

That we need a new hospital is beyond doubt, especially as maintenance costs for the present Basingstoke facility are rising very rapidly, pushing the Trust’s budget well into deficit this year. It is so serious that a lot of equipment well beyond its normal service date is having to be retained until its terminal failure.

The Hampshire Together New Hospital Programme, together with patients and representatives of the community, has been studying the feedback from the planned new hospital public consultation which ended in March, and in its light adapting the proposals for

the business case, which must be approved by the local Integrated Care Board (ICB). This work is now close to the stage for the final document to be submitted for the ICB to review and approve. Sadly, any new hospital locally will be delayed behind the work being undertaken in those hospitals built with ‘aerated concrete’ (RAAC) which of course represents a safety hazard. Hospitals affected by RAAC are at the top of the Secretary of State’s list of priorities to ensure patients can receive care in buildings that are safe and fit for purpose.

Ambulance queuing remains an issue, with several factors not helping, these include winter viruses; the lack and delays in the installation of home equipment for patients leaving hospital (it is recognised home is often the best place for recovery); lack of joined up care; the cost of care homes – many now with weekly costs approaching £2,000. Perhaps it is also relevant to mention that we are the nation in Europe with significantly the lowest number of hospital beds per head of the population!

On a positive note, a new Urgent Treatment Centre (UTC) has now opened at Basingstoke– the UTC is separate to the ongoing work of the New Hospital Programme. Service from these facilities is designed to

treat people requiring urgent - but not life-threatening care more efficiently, protecting emergency department services for patients presenting with the most severe conditions. These facilities are being developed to alleviate pressure across our Emergency Departments. People can access the Basingstoke UTC via 111 or will be directed from the Emergency Department.

However, the GP problem, where surgeries are private businesses, has not been helped by the recent changes to their costs in the budget. Similarly, just throwing money at the NHS, “doing the same thing over and over again and expecting to get a different result” is in Einstein’s words the definition of madness. As any wise management consultant would advise, find the problems, devise solutions and then one knows where to target investment if it is really required.

Again, on a positive note, with the growing world uncertainties, our Trust has wisely done a lot of work recently to improve cyber security, so hopefully we will not incur a situation as experienced by some trusts following the recent hack of a widely used testing lab, which caused so much disruption to patient flow.

Keith Bunker
Former Governor

Mayor’s Charity Concert 1 March 2025

His Worshipful Mayor of Basingstoke and Deane invites you to attend the Mayor’s Charity Concert in aid of the Mayor’s Charity Appeal on date of 1st March 2025 at the Anvil concert hall, Basingstoke Hants. The Concert returns with a programme of music which includes something for everyone. This year’s event will celebrate the key anniversaries of the 250th year of Jane Austen within the Borough and in nearby Steventon, as well as commemorate VE Day 80th Anniversary. These themes reflect the Mayor’s principle of fostering

community cohesion by bringing people together to enhance the wellbeing of all.

The concert will showcase the huge variety and diversity of music making opportunities. A taster of who will be showing are, Basingstoke Festival of Choirs, Basingstoke Gospel Choir, Hatch Warren Infant School and Heritage Light Orchestra. All Compered by David Allard. Music includes: ‘Africa’, ‘Jai Ho’ (from Slumdog Millionaire), ‘When You Believe’ (from The Prince of Egypt), The Dam busters’ March, and the theme from ‘Pride and Prejudice’.

This is a great opportunity to support the Mayor’s Charity Appeal, focusing this year on the North Hampshire Prostate Cancer Support Group, and the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation.

More information on the Mayor’s Charity Appeal can be found on <https://www.basingstoke.gov.uk/mayorcharity>

Tickets: £20. Over 65s and f/t students £16, under 16s £13 (includes £3 booking fee) www.anvilarts.org.uk/book/instance/574001 or 01256 844244.

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Bramley & District Royal British Legion



2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2. Following the D Day landings in June the previous year, British and Allied troops slowly forced the German army into a retreat and many tough battles took place and lives lost. The German forces and people were wearied by continuous heavy bombing raids on their cities. On the night of 13/14 February 1945, the city of Dresden was razed to the ground by two enormous waves of British and American heavy bombers. It was a hard attack to justify, as 'Bomber' Harris, AOC Bomber Command later discovered but it brought fear and demoralisation among the population.

On 7 March 1945 our forces crossed the Rhine and continued to fight their way to Berlin where the total surrender of the Nazi regime was received on 7 May and Victory

in Europe VE Day declared the following day.

It is not clear, as these notes are compiled, how this momentous event will be commemorated nationally or locally but be assured the RBL will play its part.

The darker side of the end of the war was the dawning of the full realisation of the dehumanising horror of the Nazi concentration and death camps as they were liberated. Ten years ago, on the 70th anniversary of the end of WW2, as Leicestershire & Rutland RBL County Chaplain I was tasked to lead a service of remembrance in the de Montfort Hall. Amongst the hymns and prayers, I invited the leader of the Leicester Synagogue to read Psalm 13 in Hebrew, the language of Jewish worship. It was

one of the most poignant moments I have ever experienced.

Our Branch will be supporting our parishes Summer Fetes again this year. Also on Saturday 7 June we have a few tickets for the final rehearsal, the Colonels' Review, of this year's King's Birthday Parade, Trooping the Colour, on Horse Guards Parade. If you would like to go, please contact our Chairman Rhydian Vaughan.

Also contact Rhydian if you would be interested in a short 3/4day tour of some of the WW2 Battlefields, probably in the Somme area. This is planned for the autumn, possibly mid-September.

John Morley

Vice Chairman

Bramley & District RBL
07900 892566

News from Clift Surgery and the Patient Participation Group

We have seen in the news that there are a lot of respiratory illnesses at the moment, so please take care. January is not always people's favourite month but at least the days are starting to lengthen.

Winter self-care tips.

1. Stay Warm: Layer up with warm clothing to protect against the cold. Don't forget hats, gloves, and scarves.
2. Moisturize: Cold weather can dry out your skin. Use a good moisturizer to keep your skin hydrated.
3. Vitamin D: With shorter days, consider a Vitamin D supplement to compensate for reduced sunlight exposure.
4. Stay Active: Engage in indoor exercises like yoga or home workouts to keep your body moving.

5. Light Therapy: Consider using a light therapy box to combat Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD).

6. Stay Connected: Keep in touch with friends and family through calls or virtual meetings to avoid feelings of isolation.

7. Mindfulness and Meditation: Practice mindfulness or meditation to manage stress and maintain mental clarity.

8. Routine: Maintain a regular routine to provide structure and stability.

Collection from the dispensary is now much quicker although do allow 2 weeks from request to collection.

Remember the Friendship Walking Group, who meet at 10.30 at The Pavilion at Clift Meadow every Thursday, if you want some company

and an incentive to get out for some fresh air and exercise. Please email ppgclift@gmail.com for information or questions.

Extra information, when needed, will be posted on the PPG Facebook page. A new web site is being developed, and more information will be shared shortly.

In December there were 83 non-attendance for booked appointments. Sadly this number seems consistent month on month. Please make sure you only book an appointment that you need and that you cancel if you no longer require this appointment.

Thank you.

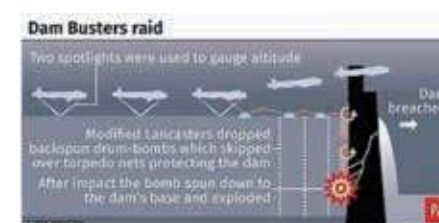
Probus Hears About the Dambusters



Many will have seen the 1955 film, "The Dambusters" and speaker Rhydian Vaughan MBE explained that scenes involving the bouncing



bomb were subject to the Official Secrets Act and what was shown was not like the shape of the real thing. The creation of designer Barnes Wallis, code named 'Upkeep' was in fact drum shaped, weighing more than four tons. It was engineered to spin backwards at 500 RPM so that when it hit the dam wall its reverse spinning would ensure it would hug the wall as it descended the depths.



The three dams of the industrial heartland of the Ruhr valley, the Mohne, Eder and Sorpe had been identified in 1937 as potential targets, but it took until May 1943 for 'Operation Chastise' to come to fruition.

The scheme had several detractors, mainly from head of RAF Bomber Command, Arthur 'Bomber' Harris but was overruled by the then head of the RAF, Sir Charles Portal (of our local Portal's family bank note paper manufacturer). Nineteen of the newly introduced AVRO Lancaster bombers, each costing £42,000 and needing

a crew of seven, would have to be modified to carry the experimental weapon that had originally been thought was to be used against the German battleship, Tirpitz.



Wing Commander Guy Gibson, DSO & Bar, DFC & Bar, a twenty-four-year-old bomber flying ace, known unaffectionately as 'The Boy Emperor' due to his unfortunate manner in dealing with subordinates, was asked to form Squadron X, soon to be renamed 617 Sqn to perform one specific task. He had only eight weeks to form and train a new squadron to carry out the raid on the dams. By the 16/17 May the dams would be at full capacity. It was known that it took one hundred and fifty tons of water to make 1 ton of steel.

Barnes Wallis had calculated that his rotating mine would need to be dropped at a specific speed, height and distance from the dam for several



bounces to reach the wall and at night, facing defending fire from the dam wall.



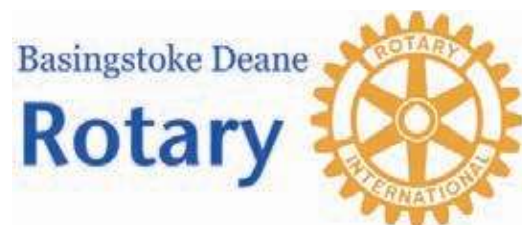
Eight Lancasters, along with 53 airmen, did not return to RAF Scampton. Guy Gibson was awarded the Victoria Cross – his response to this was subdued as he felt responsible for those he had recruited and who had not returned.

While the raid on the dams was a great morale booster, within a few months they had been repaired as there was no follow up missions to prevent them being rebuilt. However, the labour needed was brought in from building the Atlantic Wall, the German construction across the northern French coastline, and it was



subsequently recognised that had this delay not occurred the D-Day landings would have not succeeded.

www.probusbasingstoke.club



MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH LEND WITH CARE

**Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club changing
lives with loans**



Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club are celebrating a landmark charitable achievement. As one of hundreds of Rotary clubs from across the country who have jointly contributed over £1 million to Lendwithcare, a microfinance charity which enables people in the UK to make

small loans to entrepreneurs from poor communities around the world.

Since October 2011, Rotary clubs across the UK have been raising funds to make small loans to entrepreneurs in developing countries, enabling them to start or expand their small businesses and work their way out of poverty, feed their families and send their children to school. Basingstoke Deane Rotary has been part of this since early 2020.

More than £1 million has now been lent by Rotary to farmers, tailors, market stallholders and food producers to name just a few of the types of businesses Rotary have helped in 11 countries across Africa, Asia, and South America.

Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club have raised and lent a total of £11,366, contributing towards the national £1 million landmark, with the club loaning to 9 groups / entrepreneurs in Malawi, Philippines, and Rwanda.

Lendwithcare's own details tell us that Basingstoke Deane Rotary have helped 78 entrepreneurs, and 298 family members, and assisted in the creation of 43 jobs. Club President Mike Lakin said "Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club are proud to be a part of this fantastic initiative. Lendwithcare is a great way to help people out of poverty. You see exactly who the money is going to, and what they will use it for."

"The entrepreneur uses the funds to help them to earn a living, often employing family members and neighbours as well, helping to lift their communities out of poverty. They pay the loans back, which can be re-lent to person after person."

BASINGSTOKE FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday 11th May 2025

Basingstoke Deane Rotary are proud to again be the principal organisers of this renowned event. The Memorial Park will again be full of Vehicle displays, stalls and other attractions for this big event

It's a great day out and Rotary look forward to welcoming you on Sunday 11 May 2025

See our website or facebook to register your vehicle. Registrations for all sections are open from week commencing 20th January and demand is traditionally very heavy.



Basingstoke Deane Rotary is a group of 35 men & women from a wide variety of backgrounds.

All live locally in the borough but some commute to work outside Basingstoke. Most joined Rotary to help others less fortunate, and they find Basingstoke Deane Rotary adds another extremely enjoyable dimension to their lives.

If you would like to find out more about how we enjoy ourselves, just tune in to www.rcbd.org.uk to see what we have coming up, or contact Helen or Paul above to find out more. We think you'll be pleasantly surprised.

Facebook: @RotaryBasingstokeDeane | Twitter: @RBstokeDeane

Last chance to see Basingstoke Gang Show. Book your tickets today!



It's your last chance to book tickets for the Basingstoke Gang Show, returning to The Haymarket for its 29th variety show! Performances start on Thursday 13th and run until Saturday 22nd February 2025, excluding Sunday 16th. Matinee performances are also on Saturday 15th and 22nd February.

The gang have been working hard since early September with each of the 70 cast members attending over 200 hours of rehearsals, a total of 14,000 hours across the cast. With a production of classic to contemporary performances showcasing the very best in local talent in the Scout & Guide associations; you can expect to be delighted by a show lasting 2.5 hours. Basingstoke Gang Show is recognised as the best-selling and longest running 'family variety show' in the South of England. Look at the Basingstoke Gang Show website www.basingstokegangshow.com

Tickets are on sale via www.anvilarts.org.uk

Ticket prices: Adults £23, Children £16 and last night (Saturday 22nd) all seats £24. Ticket prices include £3 booking fee via Anvil Arts.



Photo from previous Basingstoke gang Show performance:

Tadley Scottish Dancers

Fun Fitness and Friendship

How many of us start a New Year with the best of intentions, with promises to improve our lifestyle, get out more, make new friends, and try new experiences? When the weather is cold and wet, and the days are dull and depressing, it's challenging to keep to these good intentions.

The mantra of Scottish Country Dancing is "Fun, Fitness and Friendship". No matter the weather, club nights are filled with warmth, chatter and laughter as we try old favourites and newer dances. Dancing requires physical and mental effort, and team work, to successfully master the technicalities of figures of eight, reflection reels, poussettes and diagonal rights and lefts, to name but a few. Experienced dancers are always eager to help beginners master these seemingly difficult formations (actually not so very difficult once they are demonstrated).

Why not try it for yourself on Tuesday evenings 7:30pm to 9:30pm? Beginners are always welcome. No need for a partner. Club nights are very informal. Have fun dancing off all those mince pies and chocolates, whilst making new friends. Enjoy your first evening free, without obligation.

Contact us via email or through the website if you are interested in joining us. <https://tadleysd.wixsite.com/tadleyscd/contact> or scan the QR Code:

Valerie Gardner
Email: tadleysd@gmail.com



Over 60's Coffee Morning

By the time you read this many of you will have heard that Shelley, who has been organising the coffee morning for a long time, has moved from the Village. We would all like to thank Shelley for all her hard work and wish her well in her new life.

What happens now you may ask? A few people have got

together and hope to continue to provide the coffee morning.

As it is a new beginning it was decided to rename the morning to "SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING" but apart from that it will be 'service as usual'



Your Local Cats Protection Branch Needs You!!

Basingstoke Cats Protection currently have 10 cats on our waiting list who we so desperately want to help... but with all our current foster homes full of felines there is little we can do.

We are looking for fosterers, either indoor or in an outdoor enclosure which is provided by Cats Protection (approximate size 13ft x 4ft or 4m x 1.2m). Full training will be provided and all expenses are covered by Cats Protection – food, litter, bedding and electricity.

Fostering is an incredible experience guaranteed to give you an extreme sense of joy, achievement and pride. The days spent in a loving foster home make the world of difference for our cats and kittens, setting them up for a lifetime of happiness 🐱

PLEASE consider opening your home and heart to a cat in need; if you cannot foster, please spread the word to anyone who may be able to help us.



If you're interested in finding out more, please contact Lynne at adoption@basingstoke.cats.org.uk or call our enquiries line on 01256 584544.

February half-term fun at Basingstoke Leisure Park

Basingstoke Leisure Park is the perfect destination for family fun this February half-term with ample free parking. At Milestones Museum, you can step back in time and enjoy a whole host of games. Play giant board games, test your skills at traditional fairground games and even try your hand at some classic pub games like skittles.

For water-based thrills, head to Basingstoke Aquadrome. With its lagoon pool, exciting flumes and thrilling rapids, it's the perfect place to splash around.

Thrill-seekers will love the adrenaline rush at iFLY Indoor Skydiving, an unforgettable experience for all ages. Catch a blockbuster at Odeon cinema or challenge your friends and family to a game of bowling at Hollywood Bowl.

And after all that excitement, refuel with a bite to eat at one of the many restaurants on-site including McDonald's, KFC, Costa and The Spruce Goose.

Visit www.basingstokeleisurepark.co.uk to plan your visit today!



Man sentenced for 'disgusting' fly-tip

A man who fly-tipped enough waste to block a road in a rural area of Basingstoke and Deane has been given a suspended prison sentence plus rehabilitation activity days and unpaid work.

Mark Henry Bates of Mansell Close, Windsor, appeared at Basingstoke Magistrates' Court for sentencing on Friday 10 January, having pleaded guilty to the fly-tipping offence at an earlier hearing held in September last year.

During this hearing, Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, who brought the prosecution, told the court that Mr Bates had been employed by a Kempshott resident to remove and dispose of waste following a renovation project.

The waste was later found dumped four miles away, in Well Close, Wootton St Lawrence, on Sunday 26 February 2023. The waste blocked Well Close and prevented a resident from leaving their property.

Sentencing Mr Bates to eight months imprisonment, suspended for 12 months, 10 rehabilitation activity days and 80 hours of unpaid work, the district judge described the offence as "disgusting behaviour". He also ordered Mr. Bates to pay clean-up costs of £634 and a contribution to the costs of the prosecution of £600.

Cabinet Member for Housing and Residents' Services Cllr Laura James said: "Fly-tipping of this nature is inexcusable. We are prepared to take tough action on fly-tipping where it is appropriate and this sentence proves the courts support this approach."

"This fly-tip blocked an entire access road. This not only prevented residents from getting to and from their homes but also could have prevented access for the emergency services, which could have had devastating consequences."

"It is extremely costly to clear fly-tipping

but the cost is not just financial, it impacts our environment, our wildlife and our communities."

Cllr James added: "This case highlights why it is so important for people who are arranging for waste to be removed from their property need to check the waste removal company is licensed and can provide the correct paperwork."

More information on reporting fly-tipping and disposing of waste correctly is available at www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytipping and www.basingstoke.gov.uk/flytip-campaign









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Little Acorns

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(during term-time)
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 Little Acorns Sherborne St John




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THE BASINGSTOKE LIONS CLUB



It's back!



Lou Taylor's Motown & Soul Night

Saturday 8th March, 7.30 for 8pm

The Royal British Legion, Crown Lane, Old Basing RG24 7DN

Had to be done!!!!

We've been lucky enough to host this amazing musician no less than 5 times in recent years – 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023, 2024 - and we're thrilled to be doing it again for 2025!

Lou has worked alongside some of the top names in the music industry, supporting artists such as Boy George, Alexander O'Neal, Edwin Starr, Martha Reeves, Gino Washington, Bitty Mclean and Peter Andre.

Having begun his professional life as a session musician playing bass guitar and singing backing vocals in studios and on the live scene for numerous artistes, Lou moved on to a signing by a certain Mr. Simon Cowell to RCA, resulting in the release of a remix of Bryan Adams "Summer of '69".

Lou brings his special talent to entertain and encourage the audience to 'cut some shapes' on the dance floor – and the fact that he's back by popular demand YET AGAIN is testament to the suggestion that tickets be secured EARLY!



Tickets: £12.50 from

www.basingstokelions.org.uk

or tony.bamberger@hotmail.co.uk

01256 850254

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Ever thought of fostering?

We are looking to expand our network of puppy fosterers. Come along to our open evening and find out more about how you could help us in our work.

Join Us
February 18th, 2025
From 7pm to 8pm

The Tweseldown Pub
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On the evening:

- ☒ Hear more about our work
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- ☒ Informal Q&A for any questions
- ☒ ZERO obligation to foster
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To book your FREE ticket for the evening (spaces limited), visit:

<https://shorturl.at/YRttm>

For more information, email: volunteering@dogshomes.org.uk

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Central Studio

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Small Ads

Enquiries and items for inclusion please contact **Emma Foreman on 01256 889215/07747 015494** or **emma@thehaye.co.uk**

- The advertising rate is £6 per month or £8 for a box entry. Cheques to be made payable to ‘The Villager’.
- Payment for advertisements must be received in advance and are limited to 10 lines of type.
- For information on annual block advertisements please contact **Emma Foreman**

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PRIVATE TUITION IN FRENCH AND GERMAN with qualified, experienced, CRB checked teachers. All ages and stages, including preparation for examinations (CE, GCSE, IB, A-level etc.), adult conversation and primary/nursery language clubs Daytime or evenings, at home, work or school. Call Samantha Cruickshank (Language Services Specialists) on: **07944 820284** or email: **scruckshanktutor@yahoo.co.uk**

ABLE GARDEN SERVICES Grass and hedge cutting, fencing, turfing, patios, planting, tree work, gravel drives etc. Please call Eddie on **01189 700765** (Pamber Heath) or **07904 440468**

HOUSE CLEANING BY MARIA Reliable and affordable services. Experienced, easy going local lady, who checks every corner. Ironing services also available. References available upon request. Email: **mariacleaning@live.co.uk**, tel. **07933316989**

BOOKKEEPING SERVICES River K Solutions Ltd, for all your bookkeeping needs. Please contact us on **07402173137** for free initial consultation or check our website **www.riverksolutions.co.uk**

REGISTERED CHILDMINDER based in Sherborne St John will have full/part time spaces available from July. Also collecting from Sherborne St John school in September. For more information call: **01256 851249**

HOME & OFFICE MAINTENANCE SERVICES All types of installation and maintenance works including electrical, plumbing, IT networks, access/security/alarm/attendance systems, carpentry and decorating. Cleaning services, secure disposal of office document waste. Please call Adam on **07511 495052**. Visa, Master Card, Amex.

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JON’S GARDENING & HANDYMAN SERVICES Regular garden maintenance & one off jobs. Fencing, Hedges, Pruning, General tidy ups and home maintenance. For sensible rates and a friendly service please call **07488 347493**.

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ONLINE BOOKINGS

All classified adverts can now be booked on the website:

www.fromthesmallestseed.co.uk

To book a classified advert for the Villager, **register** with this website. Then **search** for The Villager using any of the searches allowed. There is no online payment – you can pay by cheque at the end of the booking process as normal. Once monies are received you will be able to access receipts and check your booking history from this site.



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- Leaking gutters & Down-pipes repaired

Mickey: 07888 828542

Contacts

PLEASE NOTIFY THE EDITOR OF ANY ALTERATIONS OR CHANGES TO THIS LIST.
THIS IS THE ONLY WAY OF ENSURING THAT THE DETAILS ARE CORRECT

CHURCH OF ENGLAND - SWP Parish

Revd Stewart Deering Mob: 07359 717577 Tel: 01256 647900
stewart.deering@sherborneswithpamber.org
The Presbytery, Popley Way, Basingstoke 819722
Sarum Hill Centre, Basingstoke 316000

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
BASINGSTOKE COMMUNITY CHURCH
CLERKS TO PARISH COUNCILS

clerk@sherbornestjohn-pc.gov.uk 07714 770940
clerk@monksherborne-pc.gov.uk 07721 076186
clerk@pamber-pc.gov.uk 07942 637210
David McIntyre Cllr.David.McIntyre@basingstoke.gov.uk
Androulla Johnstone Cllr.Androulla.Johnstone@basingstoke.gov.uk
Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke 844844
The Castle, Winchester 01962 841841
Non-emergency 101 or 01962 841534
www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/ocr/af/how-to-report-a-crime
simon.denton.23888@hampshire.police.uk 07469562503
ted_wilkinson@btinternet.com 01256 850891
https://www.jobcentreforjobs.co.uk

SSJ MS Mrs Cally Morris
Pamber Chris Gunnell
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for SSJ
BOROUGH COUNCILLOR for Pamber
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SSJ RETIREMENT COFFEE MORNING
SUMMIT JUDO CLUB

Mrs Loraine Brown, (Secretary) 01256 590359
Caroline Givan: caroline.givan@gmail.com
TramayneHenwood - ssjbrownies@outlook.com 422083
Sam Hazlewood - ssjguides@yahoo.com 880132
Ms Trish Field 01420 544904
Mrs Liz Gwynn 07770 373282
850303

Mrs Jane Shelvey jshelvey@lillydown.net
Paul & Maria Saunders 850430
Mrs Margaret Cramer 850390
Mr Len Dunce 07860 435 831
or Mr Paul Hamilton 07917 005862
Mrs Jacqui Morris 881336
Mr Les Bone 850973
Mr Terry Buller tel.buller@gmail.com 07584 169241
Claudia or Jane info@piccolopsn.com 07528 726248
www.piccolopsn.com
Mr Stuart Maughan 01256 883858
Mrs J. Hughes email: tadleysd@gmail.com
Jenni Stafford jenni@jsba.uk

YOGA in SSJ Village Hall
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FOOTBALL CLUB
PICCOLO PRE-SCHOOL NURSERY

THE VYNE HOUSE (National Trust)
SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING
BALLET at SSJ Village Hall

VENUE BOOKINGS:

St Stephen’s Hall Doreen Quilter
MS Village Hall
SSJ Village Hall Shawna Campbell
The Chute Pavilion Terry Buller
Royal British Legion John Delafield

enquiries@monksherbornevillagehall.org.uk 07854 280343
ssjhallbookings@yahoo.com 07759 064220
tel.buller@gmail.com 07526 954835
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Ms Sarah Jolliffe (Head teacher) 850180
Mr Jamie Carroll 473379

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0871 121 0190
Basingstoke Town Centre 473901
Chineham Library 465643
Tadley Library 0300 555 1387
Monday-Friday 8.30-12.00 am and 2.00-4.15 pm 01256 462101

DIAL-A-RIDE

If we have omitted any organisations, and/or their contact details, we apologise and would welcome any information to keep this list up to date and relevant

Julie Crawley

villagermagazine@gmail.com

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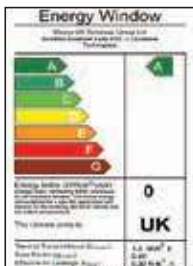
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